

Physician resource-use measurement: Initial findings from site visits

ISSUE: The Commission has recommended that Medicare claims data be used to measure physicians' resource use and share results with physicians confidentially. The Commission has explored the possibility of comparing resource use among physicians by analyzing Medicare claims using commercially available episode grouper software. These analyses indicated that Medicare claims were generally compatible with episode grouper software.

KEY POINTS: In this session, we will present preliminary findings from site visits to private health plans that use episode grouper software to measure physician resource use. These site visits were designed to seek answers to the Commission's questions about how health plans have rolled out feedback on resource-use measurement to physicians. The findings will complement the methodological work we have completed thus far to explore how episode grouper software functions with Medicare data.

ACTION: Commissioners should discuss issues raised by these preliminary findings and suggest directions for possible policy options.

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